

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A beverage portioned package for preparing a beverage in an extraction device in which the package is held or clamped between a water supplying part and a receiver of the device, the beverage portioned package comprising:

a first surface for receiving water and allowing the water to flow into and through the package under pressure when the package is operatively associated with the extraction device to form the beverage; and

a second surface that allows for the beverage to flow therethrough so that the beverage can be collected in the receiver of the device,

wherein the package contains a water-soluble beverage material in an amount sufficient to form the beverage and a filler between the first surface and the second surface, with the filler comprising a water insoluble and water-absorbent material adapted to maintain extraction pressure of the beverage during progressive dissolution of the water-soluble beverage material at a pressure above that which is created by the sole resistance of the first and second surfaces when the package is emptied of the water-soluble material, wherein the ratio of water-soluble material to filler is between 1:1 and 1:8 by volume, wherein the filler has water-absorbent properties that are sufficient to provide a water absorbency rate of the package of at least 200%.

Claim 2 (original): The beverage portioned package of claim 1, wherein the filler is present in an amount sufficient to form a pressure resistance bed.

Claim 3 (original): The beverage portioned package of claim 2, wherein the pressure resistance bed extends through the entire package.

Claim 4 (original): The beverage portioned package of claim 2, wherein the pressure resistance bed comprises discrete pieces of the filler in the form of powder, particulates, granules, flakes, fibers or combinations thereof.

Claim 5 (original): The beverage portioned package of claim 2, wherein the pressure resistance bed comprises at least one continuous porous piece in the form of a web, a mat, a compacted piece, a sintered piece, a foam or combinations thereof.

Claims 6-7 (canceled):

Claim 8 (original): The beverage portioned package of claim 1, wherein the filler includes cellulose, organic or inorganic fiber, fresh ground coffee, spent ground coffee or a combination thereof.

Claim 9 (canceled):

Claim 10 (previously presented): The beverage portioned package of claim 1, wherein the ratio of water-soluble material to filler is between 1:1 and 1:6 by volume.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The beverage portioned package of claim 1, wherein the water-soluble material comprises coffee and is present in an amount that provides at least 10 to 40 weight percent of the total coffee solids in the final beverage.

Claim 12 (original): The beverage portioned package of claim 1, wherein the water-soluble material includes soluble coffee powder, milk powder, a creamer substitute powder or mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (original): The beverage portioned package of claim 1, wherein the filler contains a soluble or water extractable substance for aromatizing or flavoring the beverage.

Claim 14 (original): The beverage portioned package of claim 12, wherein the soluble or extractable substance is an aroma, coffee, an artificial flavor or a natural flavor.

Claim 15 (original): The beverage portioned package of claim 1, wherein the first and second surfaces are walls made of a water-permeable material.

Claim 16 (original): The beverage portioned package of claim 13, wherein the first and second surfaces are made of filter paper sheets.

Claim 17 (original): The beverage portioned package of claim 13, wherein the first and second surfaces are disk-shaped sheets manufactured from filter paper and interconnected adjacent their peripheral edges, with the interconnected parts of the sheets forming an annular sealing seam to allow the package to be held in the extraction device.

Claim 18 (original): The beverage portioned package of claim 1, wherein the first and second surfaces are solid or semi-solid walls which are pre-opened or are made of a pierceable material.

Claim 19 (original): The beverage portioned package of claim 18, wherein the first and second surfaces are made of plastic, a metal, or a combination thereof.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method of making a foamed beverage from a soluble beverage-forming material in a beverage portioned package that is processed in an extraction device, the method comprising:

providing the package with a water-soluble beverage material in an amount sufficient to form the beverage and a filler therein, and

forming a pressure resistant bed in the filler in the packaging, the filler comprising a water insoluble and water-absorbent material adapted to maintain extraction pressure of the beverage during progressive dissolution of the water-soluble beverage material at a pressure above that which is created by the sole resistance of the package to facilitate formation of a foam on the beverage that is dispensed from the extraction device, wherein the filler has water-absorbent properties that are sufficient to provide a water absorbency rate of the package of at least 200%.